

HIS
MAIESTIES
DECLARATION

AND

Manifestation to all His Souldiers, by Himselfe
declared in the Head of His Army at *Southam*, 10. miles
on this side *Coventry*, *Octob. 21.* For direction in their
marching, that the goods of no inhabitants be despoiled or un-
justly pillaged, but that due satisfaction be given for
meat, or drink, or whatsoever shalbe con-
venient and necessary for them.



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HIS
MAIESTIES
DECLARATION

To all His Souldiers, by Himselfe declared
 in the Head of His Army, *Octob. 11.*

Gentlemen,

I Know ye are not insensible of the many faire Letters of Treaty which have issued from Us to both Our Houses of Parliament, and the slight effect they have produced, notwithstanding they have been seconded with many vowes and reall protestations, in which God and men are called for witnesses, wherein We have ingaged the temporall and eternall happinesse of Us and all Our royall Posterity, that Our determination tendeth to no other end then the whole Kingdoms happinesse, establishing the same flourishing Religion professed in the tranquill dayes of **QU. ELIZABETH**, and confirmed by Our royall Father; likewise to maintain the Law, and Li-

(2)
berty of the Subject, with the just priviledges
of Parliament, which in all their Petitions hath
been required, and by Us graciously heard,
granted, and not believed, but most unreasona-
bly suspected: what actions or action of Ours
from the beginning of Our reigne till this pre-
sent houre should urge the cause of so inhu-
mane and most impious a misbeliefe, We are
yet to learne; and since (in all this time of trou-
ble) We could not be informed, it may be fea-
red We can never be instructed: the strange &
disloyal causes which have forced Us from Our
Throne of peace and (as we thought) security,
to appeare in hostile manner in the bowels of
Our own Kingdome, a man of common rea-
son cannot censure to be Ours, since he must
conclude, that whosoever hath the victory, we
are sure to be the looser; ambition which fills
the veines of great ones to be greater, must
needs be free from Us, since we are greatest: en-
vy or malice are as farre, since we have no com-
petitor: we have protested in the word of a
King, and called the searcher of all hearts to re-
cord, that we intend not the alteration of the
true professed and established Protestant Reli-
gion, the Lawes of the Kingdome, the known
Liberty

Liberty of the Subject; the right and just privileges of Parliament; and all this confirmed with such imprecations as may urge beliefs in common men one toward another, although strangers, and at the first sight: if this be granted, We would know for what other cause then the safety of Our endangered Person; and the protection of Our Subjects, We have raised (with the love and free will of Our people) this necessary guard about Us; only putting Our Selfe in a posture of defence against most imminent and active violence; and not (as ill pretences would instigate Our good Subjects) to wage warre against Our Parliament, who had their being what they are from Our Prerogative, without which they had not beene. (or at least not had a Warrant) for continuance. Moreover, for the cleer understanding of Our Resolutions to maintaine peace; Wee may have the confidence and happinesse to referre (against all malignity whatsoever) to Our former sixteen yeers reign; (too long to dissemble Our nature) if in all this time We never caused the effusion of one drop of bloud; it must needs bee thought, that in Our

super judgment of government We should ne-
 ver open such issues as might drown Us & Our
 Posterity in them; but We are sure to have no
 enemies, but in the defence of the true Prote-
 stant Profession, the right of the established
 Lawes, and for the preservation of peace; and
 certainly all these must be all yours, as well as
 Our enemies. And to the end that this present
 posture wherein We are, should not disturb you
 with the distempers of the times, the example
 of the two Houses having made Us prepare for
 a guard to Us and Our Childrens Persons, We
 wish you to looke into the composition and
 constitution of it, and you will finde it so farre
 from the face or feare of warre, that it serveth to
 secure you as well as Us from it, since you know
 Our choice is of the prime Gentry. And We fur-
 ther assure you, We never intended to use For-
 raingers or disaffected in Religion: and (that
 you may fully assure yourselves of Our sole de-
 pendency upon the love & service of Our peo-
 ple to live and die with them) We have armed
 you Our Subjects, which had been most irra-
 tionall, if We had ever intended to have used
 strangers; and further you may perceive, that
We receive none but such as stand cleer in loy-
 alty

ally and Religion; for which reason you see We have caused the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy to be given them; and for the prevention of any innovated power over you, you shall have Us with you to govern you and protect you in peace, and to relieve you against all oppressions; for that (as We have formerly told you) must arise from some great violation (which We hope God will prevent) and not from this forward preparation of Our Subjects: therefore let none of you be discouraged with vain fears, if such a warre must follow, it will follow the authors home to their own doores: and such (by the confidence of Our Person with you) We assure Our Self you are not.

The discontented people, whose lives are but a continual rumour and faction, have endeavoured to make Us and Our Army odious, by casting many aspersions and calumnies upon them; as I have received notice, by assured intelligence, that you should fallie out of your severall quarters, to plunder and pillage the houses of known Protestants; We hope it is not so; and am the rather confident, in that the relation sprung from those who have taken liberty to vent most unbecoming language against Our Own Person; notwithstanding We hold it most necessary to advertise you (since your hostility is in a righteous and religious cause) that you use no sinister action, good causes never produce unrighteous effects, nor can truth be fortified with falshood; therefore We will and command you to march peaceably and quietly, as a defending party, not a provoking; despoile no mans goods, not in the least degree, abuse not their wives, or servants, or cattell, or what else shall appertain to them, lest you make a breach in the Law, and Liberty of the Subject,

Subject (the cause you stand to defend) default no man
 where so ever you are quartered, but give satisfaction for
 what you have, than you may get, we are a wizer before
 truth, but seem like that truth you serve under, does not
 plunck or pillage under the pretence of Papists houses,
 till there be notice given, that they may legally, not vio-
 lently be examined and detected: avoid vaice and rash
 swearing, excessive drinking and effeminacy (by some
 esteemed the property of a soldier) but the shame and
 corruption of a good Christian: be sure you cast an eye
 upon your cause, which invites you to a more sanctified
 Rule, avoid all inward quarrels, and self destroying
 mutiny, let the feare of God, the preservation of a good
 conscience, the contemplation and exercise of truth and
 true Religion be always acceptable and received by you,
 that you may not feare the change of your mortality,
 since you have lesse assurance to preserve your lives now
 then ever you had: Officers and you that have com-
 mand, it shall become your charge so far as in you lies to
 see these observations maintained, and be your selves the
 examples, and We doubt not but in time the just God
 will direct and protect Us in all Our actions, and bring
 Our weary labours to a good conclusion, when all Our
 sadness shall be turned into joy, the Subject possesse his
 free liberty uncontroll'd, and the Kingdom continue in
 firm peace for ever.

F. I. N. I. S.

